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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-34. (Canceled)

35. (New) A vector suitable for transgene delivery into mammalian cells, wherein said vector comprises a chimeric genetic construct comprising a transgene operably linked to at least two distinct posttranscriptional regulatory elements functional in mammalian cells.

36. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein at least one posttranscriptional regulatory element confers increased stability to mRNAs.

37. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein at least one posttranscriptional regulatory element comprises all or a portion of a UTR region of a eukaryotic mRNA.

38. (New) The vector of claim 37, wherein said UTR region is selected from tau 3'UTR, TH3'UTR and APP5'UTR or a functional portion thereof.

39. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein at least one posttranscriptional regulatory element comprises all or a functional portion of a WPRE element.

40. (New) A vector suitable for transgene delivery into mammalian cells, wherein said vector comprises a chimeric genetic construct comprising a transgene operably linked to a WPRE element and to an APP5'UTR region.

41. (New) A vector suitable for transgene delivery into mammalian cells, wherein said vector comprises a chimeric genetic construct comprising a transgene operably linked to a WPRE element, an APP5'UTR region and a tau3'UTR region.

42. (New) A vector suitable for transgene delivery into mammalian cells, wherein said vector comprises a chimeric genetic construct comprising a transgene operably linked to a WPRE element, an APP5'UTR region, a tau3'UTR region and a TH3'UTR region.

43. (New) The vector of claim 39, wherein said WPRE element comprises all or a functional fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1.

44. (New) The vector of claim 38, wherein said APP5'UTR region comprises all or a functional fragment of SEQ ID NO: 2.

45. (New) The vector of claim 38, wherein said tau3'UTR region comprises all or a functional fragment of SEQ ID NO: 3.

46. (New) The vector of claim 38, wherein said TH3'UTR region comprises all or a functional fragment of SEQ ID NO: 4.

47. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein said vector further comprises a promoter controlling transcription of the transgene in said mammalian cells.

48. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein said vector further comprises a marker gene.

49. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein said vector further comprises a polyadenylation signal operably linked to said transgene.

50. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein said vector is selected from a plasmid and a recombinant virus.

51. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein said vector is selected from a replication-defective adenovirus, a replication-defective adeno-associated virus and a replication-defective retrovirus, including replication-defective lentiviruses.

52. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein the transgene is selected from a transgene coding for a growth factor, a neurotrophic factor, a cytokine, a ligand, a receptor, an immunoglobulin and an enzyme.

53. (New) A recombinant cell comprising a chimeric genetic construct or a vector of claim 35.

54. (New) A composition comprising a chimeric genetic construct or a vector of claim 35 or a recombinant cell comprising same and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.

55. (New) The composition of claim 54 for treating a human disease.

56. (New) The composition of claim 55, wherein said human disease is a neurodegenerative disease selected from Parkinson disease, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Huntington's disease and retinal degenerative diseases.

57. (New) A method of expressing a transgene in a mammalian cell *in vitro* or *ex vivo*, the method comprising:

a. providing a chimeric genetic construct comprising said transgene operably linked to at least two distinct posttranscriptional regulatory elements, and

b. introducing said construct into mammalian cells, said introduction causing expression of said transgene in said mammalian cells.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, comprising:

c. providing a vector according to claim 35, and

d. introducing said vector into mammalian cells, said introduction causing expression of said transgene in said mammalian cells.

59. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein said mammalian cells are neural cells.

60. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein said mammalian cells are fibroblasts.

61. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein said mammalian cell is a human cell or a rodent cell.

62. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the chimeric genetic construct is introduced into mammalian cells by virus-mediated infection.

63. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the chimeric genetic construct is introduced into cells by plasmid-mediated transfection.

64. (New) A method of expressing a transgene in glial cells, the method comprising:

e. providing a chimeric genetic construct comprising said transgene operably linked to posttranscriptional regulatory elements comprising a WPRE element combined with a APP5'UTR or a portion thereof, and

f. introducing said construct into glial cells, said introduction causing expression of said transgene in said glial cells.

65. (New) A method of expressing a transgene in fibroblasts, the method comprising:

g. providing a chimeric genetic construct comprising said transgene operably linked to posttranscriptional regulatory elements comprising a WPRE element combined with a APP5'UTR or a portion thereof, and

h. introducing said construct into fibroblasts, said introduction causing expression of said transgene in said fibroblasts.

66. (New) A method of expressing a transgene in neuronal cells, the method comprising:

i. providing a chimeric genetic construct comprising said transgene operably linked to posttranscriptional regulatory elements comprising a WPRE element combined with a APP5'UTR and a tau3'UTR or a portion thereof, and

j. introducing said construct into neuronal cells, said introduction causing expression of said transgene in said neuronal cells.

67. (New) A method of expressing a transgene in neuronal cells, the method comprising:

k. providing a chimeric genetic construct comprising said transgene operably linked to posttranscriptional regulatory elements comprising a WPRE element combined with a APP5'UTR, a tau3'UTR and a TH3'UTR or a portion thereof,

l. introducing said construct into neuronal cells, said introduction causing expression of said transgene in said neuronal cells.